

On this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, let me begin with the words of Pope Benedict XVI who said, “The greatest proof that we are all made in the image of the Trinity is that *only love* makes us happy, because *we live to love* and to *be loved*.” One could add that we were freely created *out of love, to be loved, and to love*. Our human vocation then, is to freely love God and others, while *allowing* ourselves to *be loved* by God and others.

Now when the Church speaks of “love,” She’s not talking about whether or not we “love” movies or Chipotle, which I really do. Rather, She’s talking about “love” in the context of persons. True love is not a “fluffy-puffy” feeling that comes and goes, but rather a stable and enduring disposition of the will—where one freely seeks the *authentic good* of another *purely for the sake of the other* and *then acts* on that desire. Love is the selfless recognition of the other and their intrinsic dignity, value, and worth.

St. Augustine said that love necessarily has a Trinitarian dimension, in that in every relationship, there’s always a lover, a beloved, and the love between them. Augustine said this is most

perfectly demonstrated in the Holy Trinity: in that God the Father is the Lover, God the Son is the Beloved, and God the Holy Spirit is the Love between Them. So brothers and sisters, God is an *eternal exchange of love*—a Trinitarian, loving communion of Persons! This is what the Triune God means when He reveals to us that He *is* Love!

Now if we're truly honest with ourselves, we all have this natural, *innate* desire for perfect and infinite love. We don't just naturally desire *any* love—we desire *infinite, perfect, and lasting* love. I've never met someone who said, "I want to be loved on Monday and hated on Tuesday." This natural, human desire for perfect love is *evidence* that we're created for the Trinity—the Triune God, Who *alone* can truly satisfy us! Certainly, the world is crying out for this perfect, infinite love in more ways than one! St. Augustine famously proclaimed: "You have made us for yourself oh Lord, and *our hearts are restless* until they rest in You."

Brothers and sisters, we don't belong to this temporary, passing, fallen world—we belong to the Triune God, Who *is* perfect, infinite Love! So today as we celebrate the great mystery of the Trinity—one

God in three Divine Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), we not only affirm *Who God is, but also who we are*, where we came from, and where we're invited to go.

Now in our weakness, we sometimes desperately search for this infinite love in all the wrong places. And yet, because He is Love itself, the Triune God never abandons us! He's always seeking us, calling us to conversion, and wanting to heal and transform us! God loves us even in our sinfulness, when we selfishly reject Him! As Pope Francis says: God *never tires* of forgiving us! The Lord is constantly pleading with us: "let Me love you and give you the happiness that you desire!" Yet, neither the Triune God, nor any human being, can force us to love them! True love is rooted in freedom, which is why God created us with free will, so that we might freely seek and respond to Him. God loves us too much to force us into a relationship with Him.

Brothers and sisters, literally the "Good News" is that this Divine, Trinitarian love is not some abstract fairy-tale, but rather a *Person*! Trinitarian Love became incarnate in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who came to free us from sin and death! *Through Christ*, God

invites us to share in His Trinitarian life of perfect love! And the Divine Love of the Trinity is not some product of “self-deluded wishful thinking”! No, this Divine love is, in one sense, “*dangerous*” in that it poses a threat to the fallen world and to our own ego and sinfulness.

Pope Benedict XVI once said, “The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.”

Brothers and sisters, loving as the Triune God loves leads to greatness!

It’s this Divine, Trinitarian love that challenges us to take risks and love those whom *the world* considers “unlovable,” such as: the marginalized, the weak, the suffering, and our enemies. It’s this Divine love that motivates a person to selflessly care for a loved one who’s sick, elderly, disabled, or dying. It’s this Divine love that unites men and women in marriage and inspires them to beautifully sacrifice for each other and for their children.

It’s this Divine love that calls us to embrace our cross and courageously unite our suffering to Christ, Who is with us through it all. It’s this Divine love that calls us to forgive and to be merciful. It’s this Divine love that invites us to turn away from sin and embrace a new life

of freedom and intimacy with Jesus! It's this Divine love that empowered the Apostles to go to the farthest ends of the known world to proclaim Christ and risk everything for Him.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus' call to evangelize, which we hear in today's Gospel, is *so much more* than merely "making converts." It's a call to courageously and compassionately reach out to those around us who are hurting, wounded, alone, and desperately searching for authentic love—for that Divine love of the Trinity. True evangelization includes letting others know that they are deeply loved by the Triune God and therefore are invited to respond to that Divine, Trinitarian love by entering into a relationship with God in and through His Church. Evangelization means inviting others to discover their great identity, dignity, and value in light of the Triune God, Who invites *all people* to share in His divine nature, which is unconditional and everlasting love.

In a few moments, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is Love Incarnate, will truly be with us in the Most Holy Eucharist. As we prepare to worship and receive our Savior, let us beg Him for the grace to become

missionary disciples of His love and help lead others to the Triune God,
Who *is* the perfect and infinite Love we all naturally desire.